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Dept. Medical Genetics

April 19, 1957

Dear Tracy:

Thank you for yours of the 16th.

I think I should say something to you on Harvard's behalf. Of course, the sort of idea of turning the tables on 'them' occurred to me as a very early reaction, though I was more concerned about the evidence that their former delay gave on the prospects of future policy. But someone wrote that if we could find out who 'they' were, the psychiatrists would be out of business. George Wald spontaneously wrote me a letter, the gist of which was that the Biology Department's earlier discussion about my possible appointment had been strongly backed by the department, but was stifled in the president's office. Since it would have been an additional appointment, out of new funds, there was nothing more to be done. I don't want to look beyond this simple explanation. But I hope that no one is misinformed; our decisions on this matter were unrelated to past history, and we merely concluded that we preferred our way of living now to the prospects at Cambridge.

As to Paul Levine, his tenure was certified before I was approached. I have heard that the Dean or someone else had insisted that the department do go after another man, as well, as a condition of this promotion. While it is impossible to be entirely content with Paul, he has made quite a creditable showing, and it would have been both foolish and in a way cruel not to give him his promotion. Harvard Biology will certainly have no occasion to be ashamed of him.

I hope we will have a chance to see you this summer. Do think about paying a social visit for a weekend. By our present plans, we'll be in Madison most of July, leaving for Melbourne about August 1.

I hope we can work something out that would interest Mitchison. It will be some time before we can be more definite. I did not know about his Harvard possibilities until after I had corresponded with him.

In the lab., we're finishing up with the L-forms. Some of the 'stable L's', isolated in the course of platings of K-12 in penicillin, have been verified to be diaminopimelic acid auxotrophs; we're looking for others of the genre. Next on our program of new business is another concerted effort at dna-transduction in *E. coli*. So far, no encouragement at all.

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg